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PROBLEM OF FORMING NASIRITE PARTY EXPOUNDED

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2924, 25 Jun 84 pp 14-15

[Article by 'Abdallah Imam: "The Chairmanship Battle in the Nasirite Party"]

[Text] The overwhelming majority of the Nasirites continue to insist that they should have their own independent party on the ground that none of the existing parties represents them or is based on the ideas that the Nasirites have embraced and which have brought about radical and profound changes in Egyptian society.

They also believe that they represent the overwhelming majority in the society. They have reached this conclusion on the basis of the position of each of the forces involved in the election with respect to the Nasirite experiment and the July Revolution that was unleashed and led by Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

All the political parties took part in the election with the tacit understanding that they went along with the July Revolution. Even the parties and the forces the depth of whose hostility to the revolution and the changes it brought about is known to all have maintained that they support the revolution.

The Muslim Brotherhood has proclaimed that it is a friend of the revolution. The Wafd has announced that it goes along with the July Revolution and the officials in the party have shouted themselves hoarse reiterating their deep faith in the July Revolution and the changes it created!

Each of the other three parties that were involved in the election also claimed to be the trustee of the July Revolution and its principles and accomplishments.

The Nasirites should be pleased to see that they have strength in the streets, that the other parties flatter them, and that the accomplishments that for years they have been defending and demanding that they be carried forward have established themselves firmly in the mind of the people and have become issues in the election. However, the Nasirites have not been pleased with this development for two reasons. Firstly, they know that adherence to the July accomplishments under the leadership of 'Abd-al-Nasir

is only a platform plank that in varying degrees is not believed in by any of the existing parties. Secondly, it means that the strength of the Nasirites is sapped and that they are scattered among the various parties when they should have an independent party of their own.

The Old and the New Nasirites

Kamal Ahmad has come forward with a group, most of which is from Alexandria, seeking to establish a Nasirite party. He has done this on his own initiative, which is deserving of appreciation whatever the numerous comments on it may have been.

Kamal Ahmad was in a hurry to do this because at first he was not able to obtain the views of the various segments of the Nasirites, consult with them, and meet with the different generations in each governorate in order to disagree and agree and finally come up with a unity of ranks and aims. They had agreed to select the best elements, most of whom are capable of leading the masses and understanding trends and generations--the youth with their singleness of purpose and zeal, and the elders with their expertise and experience in the struggle.

Some believe that Kamal Ahmad's haste will result in missing a big goal, which is the establishing of a strong party of the masses that needs more mature preparation and more of a mass leadership.

This view contains much exaggeration. Instead of crying over spilt milk, the Nasirites should be thinking about the steps to be taken in the future when the party is established. With the court decision in its favor there begins the more difficult phase of gathering the Nasirites together into one party instead of the fragmentation of the Nasirite movement.

If leadership in a society such as ours--and in the light of our recent experience--is important because of the expertise, maturity, and experience in struggle that it enjoys, it is also necessary because of its ability to rally to itself trends and elements in the governorates of Egypt. These may be from the leaderships of the old Socialist Union, which has been out of the picture for quite a while, from the Youth Organization, from the members of the Vanguard Organization, or from the youth who lived through the achievements of 'Abd-al-Nasir but did not join his organizations, though he dominated their thought and they found in him a means of achieving freedom from many of the problems that piled up during the years when we had abandoned this line of thought, had followed a contrary one, and had described him in terms that proved to be erroneous. The people who made these allegations started to back off from them during the recent election campaign!

The Records of the Revolution Survive

When the Parties Committee rejected the request submitted by Kamal Ahmad he went to court. Dr 'Ismat Sayf-al-Dawlah had prepared a full report in which he objectively refuted all the points of the objection raised by the Parties Committee as justifications for not permitting the party to be established.

The stand of Dr 'Ismat Sayf-al-Dawlah in espousing this cause and becoming deeply concerned with it was something that was welcomed and appreciated by all the Nasirites, who sensed that the Parties Committee's decision along with the reasons it adduced was a blow against all the concepts in which they believed.

The Board of State Commissioners prepared and submitted to the court a report supporting the establishing of the party. It agreed with Dr 'Ismat Sayf-al-Dawlah in refuting the points raised by the Parties Committee in its objection.

Urgent Problem

In the opinion of the Nasirites their party already has been established by virtue of this document that the commissioners drew up.

They have begun to examine the problems they might face, which in my estimation are great and momentous ones. They are in no way inferior to the problems that were confronting them before the court issued its verdict approving the party.

The first of these problems is that of incorporating into itself the ranks of the Nasirites. At present they are divided among those who have given up in despair, those who reject political activity, and those who belong to one of the existing parties.

The second problem is that of the search for leadership. First of all, the Nasirites' thinking must be based on the fact that the leadership of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was a historic one that belongs to history and cannot be easily repeated. If certain people continue to reject those who could take the place of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and provide leadership satisfactory to Egypt and the Arab world by filling the shoes that 'Abd-al-Nasir used to wear in the political system, they are making a mistake. There are many leadership elements among the Nasirites, and they doubtlessly recall the experience and 'Abd-al-Nasir's claim that it was necessary to have collective leadership because it was a protection against error and excess.

The third problem is that of unity of thought among the Nasirite groups after 10 years of destruction and defamation and after the publication of dozens of books, each of which interpreted Nasirism according to its own lights.

Foremost among the actions of the new party might be a call for a meeting on the subject of concepts that would result in the unification of the outlook of the Nasirites and of their positions and their ways of dealing with problems. The meeting would also be for the purpose of examining the place of 'Abd-al-Nasir's thought in the 1980's. This is a fundamental problem for the Nasirite thinkers to ponder in the light of the changes that have taken place in the world at large, in the Arab world, in our environment, and in Egyptian society during the last few years.

The Battle After the Verdict

On the other side of Kamal Ahmad's group stand hundreds of Nasirites who in 1 week were able to collect 5000 proxies for the attorney Farid 'Abd-al-Karim so that in his capacity as an attorney he could submit to the minister of the interior a request for the formation of "The Nasirite Arab Socialist Party." The founders of the Socialist Party convened and considered their position in the light of the report of the Board of State Commissioners. They decided to support the establishment of Kamal Ahmad's party on the basis that they would not permit any division within the Nasirite movement and that if a verdict was given in favor of establishing the party they all would join it--the 5000 founding members, their followers and the new members, and they thereby would close ranks. But in any case this matter depends on the other side and the extent to which it grasps the necessity for unifying the Nasirite movement and making it an objective transcending any general or personal consideration.

Many people think that unifying the Nasirite groups will be a tough battle and that if they succeed--and succeed in rounding up those who had drifted away into other parties--they will have created a strong, potent, and effective organization.

With the handing down of the verdict in favor of the Nasirites they all will move to join the new party. A number of them had begun to establish an association to publish by subscription a journal called "July." It is not known whether the project will be dropped in the belief that it is the party's right to publish a journal or whether the young men who had begun to collect the subscriptions will continue the project.

With the issuance of the verdict in favor of the Nasirites the issue of political isolation, which bothers some of them, will continue to be a burning one.

It has been said more than once that a decision will be issued ending the state of political isolation for all of those who have been politically isolated and that this decision is awaiting a suitable occasion.

There is no occasion more suitable than that of the establishment of the Nasirite party and the beginning of a new stage on the road of national action after the elections.

After the advent of the Nasirite party the political and party map of Egypt will change. The parties that claim to adhere to the July Revolution will have to reexamine their positions and either adhere to the revolution in fact or declare their true identity.

The Nasirites who have become scattered among the various parties, in some of which they have come to occupy positions of leadership, will have to return to their original home.

It will be determined who is clearly with the revolution and who is against it.

Who is with 'Abd-al-Nasir and who is against him.

A Personal Effort

This is only a recital of the thinking of a group of Nasirites with whom I meet and with whom I associate. These thoughts should not necessarily be regarded as expressing the will of all of them. Until their party begins its activity no one has the right to speak in the name of the Nasirites or claim to express their views.

They are merely personal efforts in which I might fail or succeed, but in any case they remain personal views so that we do not have a party without any leadership or a leadership without a mass following. They are experiences that live on in our present-day party life.

12541

CSO: 4504/331

LEBANON

DEPUTY TAWQ ADVOCATES DECENTRALISM AS SOLUTION TO CRISIS

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1444, 6 Jul 84 p 19

[Interview with Deputy Jubran Tawq, member of Independent Maronite Deputies Bloc: "Plans for Federalism Knock on Door of Chamber of Deputies; Jubran Tawq to AL-HAWADITH: Karami Cabinet Is Federal Formula"; in London, date not specified]

[Text] Deputy Jubran Tawq, a member of the Independent Maronite Deputies Bloc, has called for dealing with the reality produced by the 10 years of war in Lebanon, if the Lebanese want to rescue their country from this war.

In an interview Deputy Tawq has said that the current Lebanese cabinet is a cabinet of the strong and not a strong cabinet, that it reflects a clear image of multiplicity, federalism or political decentralism and that with the decisions it has made since the vote-of-confidence sessions, this cabinet has tried to find the proper outlets toward the final settlement, knowing in advance that it cannot achieve more than the previous cabinets have achieved.

The interview with Deputy Jubran Tawq took place at AL-HAWADITH offices in London during his visit to the city last Wednesday.

[Question] At the outset of the interview, we said to Deputy Tawq: Let us begin where they have ended in Beirut, moving from the vote of confidence, to the security plan and to the sectarian appointments made to the Military Council. Do you consider all that has happened at this level the features of a change or a solution or is it a matter of a transient circumstantial change?

[Answer] Let me state frankly that all the decisions, planning, positions and plans we see today do not form the nucleus for the desired final solution but fall within the framework of the endeavors to gain time or to kill time while waiting for the right opportunities for a settlement. I say very regrettably that all the solutions the government is seeking nowadays are no more than partial solutions or settlements that do not reach the point of the complete solution. The reasons are numerous, led by the firm link between our issue and the Middle East issue. If no regional and international understanding is reached on a solution that covers the area's problem, it will be impossible to put the Lebanese crisis on the path of the final solution.

Naturally and as a matter of fact, it is essential that we have a legitimate government enjoying the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies and present to manage the affairs of the Lebanese, even if with disability and with obstacles and impediments. However, this should not keep us from seeing the true nature and dimensions of the affairs.

To put it briefly, I believe that the present cabinet is just an endeavor added to the dozens of previous endeavors attempted throughout the years of the war since 1975. But there continues the hope that this endeavor will succeed where the previous attempts have failed because the Lebanese are hanging by a thread. However, I will repeat that I doubt that this endeavor is destined to succeed in finding fundamental solutions.

[Question] Haven't we yet reached convictions to arbitrate our problem and to help us find the solution?

[Answer] All the developments taking place among us are bringing us closer to the truth and clarifying for us the path and means for the solution. The fundamental fact of which we have become clearly aware is that Lebanon is a country comprised of several sects and that each sect wants to participate practically in power. This propels us toward a kind of formula that achieves for every sect that which it demands and seeks. What I, as well as others, see is the implementation of an expanded decentralism--a security, developmental and social decentralism. I believe that disregarding the facts and clinging to the 1943 charter is an error which we must not permit to exist. Clinging to this error is tantamount to an impossible swim against the current that will cause damage, destruction and death.

[Question] Does the cabinet's position permit embarking on such a step?

[Answer] The current cabinet is, in fact, a federal cabinet. In other words, it is a "cabinet of the strong, not a strong cabinet." It has been proven by the experiences this cabinet has undergone since its formation that it is not a strong and capable cabinet. Every member of this cabinet has come to represent a certain faction or sect and is entrusted to work to safeguard the rights and demands of his sect. We hear nowadays talk about the sectarian rights and demands in every movement and direction. This confirms that Lebanon is a country of sects and that, after all that has happened, we must reach a formula that takes into consideration the reality of the multiplicity existing in Lebanon.

[Question] Then you are for federalism in Lebanon?

[Answer] Certainly, I am for an expanded decentralism free of complexities or sensitivities. If we look around us, we find that federal systems exist and are implemented in most countries of the world. Federalism is a general name for numerous formulas and details from which we can select whatever befits us.

[Question] What is the formula that, in your opinion, befits us?

[Answer] We must first agree on the principle and then embark on the details. I believe that each sect in Lebanon must consider itself a minority among a group of minorities. We, the Maronites, must abandon the belief that all the main positions must be in our hands and the Christians must abandon the system by which they have been ruling all of Lebanon in the manner in which it has been ruled. This must be countered by initiatives on the part of the other sects that make the Christians feel reassured and that guarantee the liberties, independence, freedom of administration and decision-making. All must agree through calm dialogue around the table on how to live honorably, freely and in cooperation within a formula for a unionist state.

[Question] There are, as you know, numerous obstacles facing the formula you call for adopting, including the Muslims' rejection of any political decentralism that may limit the entity and weaken Lebanon's bond with the Arab world?

[Answer] I know what the Arabs are thinking of and I do not agree with the viewpoint with which they deal with this type of plan. Multiplicity, federalism or expanded decentralism, call it what you may, is an inlet to rescuing Lebanon from the tragic maelstrom from which it is suffering and it is the path toward safeguarding Lebanon's unity and the coexistence of its sects. I do not wish to repeat the statements about the role of the Christian pioneers in bolstering and strengthening Arabism for dozens of years in order to say that none of us deny Lebanon's Arabism, its bond to its environment and its eagerness for cultural interaction at all levels.

The Christian leaders have reaffirmed this belief on more than one occasion, as in the Geneva and Lausanne conferences. What is required is for the Arabs to exchange this belief with the Lebanese in deeds and not in words. I say this because I see no beneficial effect of any Arab aid for rescuing Lebanon. This is one of the reasons of my fear.

[Question] Prime Minister Rashid Karami rejects the concept of federalism. He rejected the plan of ex-President Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil in Lausanne. He is now the prime minister, so how could such solutions be passed?

[Answer] Had we not been in disagreement with each other, we would not have reached this situation. What is important is that we become convinced today that it is necessary to search for suitable formulas that enable us to live without wars and without invasions. We must put the opinions of Karami, Sham'un, al-Jumayyil, Birri, Junblatt and others on the discussion table and must emerge from all of them with a new solution and formula for coexistence, regardless of the name of such a formula. This is the only demand.

[Question] What do you mean by decentralized security?

[Answer] What I mean by the call for dealing with the truth is a call for dealing with reality so that we may not face a civil war every 5 or 10 years. We must secure the mainstays of stability in freedom from gaps. This is why I am amazed by the military appointments made recently--appointments which have put the army under the command of a local sectarian council of officers. I do not know how an army command can lead a sectarian army with a sectarian command council to protect an independent state! If anything, this indicates that Lebanon is a sectarian country and that its leadership formula must be founded on this basis. This is why I am calling for decentralized security whereby security is established in each area according to its special internal conditions.

We in the Independent Maronite Deputies Bloc are studying these principles and ideas and looking for a suitable formula to present to the Chamber of Deputies, provided that it is a reform formula that reaches the roots of the crisis and that does not stop at the veneer. If those who established the 1943 charter--which, with its flaw and its avoidance of the facts, has been the cause of the current crisis--had adopted the principles to which I have referred, we would not have reached our present situation and the others would not have exploited our points of weakness and caused us to destroy Lebanon with our own hands and without any hesitation.

[Question] What have you, as a responsible deputy, decided to do in order to end the ongoing catastrophe?

[Answer] We in the Bloc do not have a final visualization of the formula of which I have spoken and we do not have a specific plan in this regard. We are still in the phase of discussing and examining the idea from the angle of principle. We believe that it is now time to discuss this plan with the "last chance" cabinet so that the price may not grow bigger. We in the Bloc are thinking of expanded security, developmental and administrative decentralism. But what is more important is liberation of the Lebanese leaderships from their external ties. For any dialogue among us to succeed, they must break their ties so that the decision-making on all matters may revert to the Lebanese alone. Only then will we agree on salvation.

8494

CSO: 4404/572

LEBANON

GOVERNMENT'S CURRENCY, FISCAL POLICY EXAMINED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1444, 6 Jul 84 p 54

[Article: "Sham'um and al-Khuri Agree Fiscally; Subsidizing Pound Absorbs Liquidity of Banks; Central Bank Pursues Speculators With Dollars and Ministry of Finance Strikes With Treasury Bonds"]

[Text] Since the onset of June, the fiscal and currency policy has witnessed interesting developments and measures that have drawn the attention of observers of the pattern of policy adopted for sometime, especially since the outset of President Amin al-Jumayyil's administration.

Even though these developments do not constitute a "coup" in the sense of the fundamental transformation the word means, they have certainly exceeded and gone beyond what has been in existence and what has become customary in this regard.

It is well known that the fiscal and monetary policy embraces in this phase and given the current circumstances what seems to be the sole objective of subsidizing the Lebanese pound exchange rate within the framework of the available resources so as to contain the inflationary pressures to which the pound is subjected as a result of political, security, economic and psychological factors.

Because of this particular objective, the recent period has witnessed 2 measures that require a pause, namely:

First, when the dollar exchange rate in Beirut went a little over 600 Lebanese piasters at the beginning of last June, the Bank of Lebanon entered the currency market as a seller in an attempt to curtail the rising price of the dollar.

This intervention was unique in its nature, whether in terms of its dimensions or of the method to which it resorted. Within 5 consecutive days, the Bank of Lebanon sold nearly \$150 million or the equivalent of 900 million Lebanese pounds. It was said at the time that what the Bank of Lebanon sold in 2 days exceeded what the Central Bank of Germany had sold to bolster the price of the Deutchemark versus the dollar.

The Bank of Lebanon's intervention in this manner aroused surprise and amazement, not insofar as the dimensions of the intervention are concerned but insofar as the bank's determination to carry on with its open confrontation with the

speculators is concerned. The Bank of Lebanon had watched the speculators and found out that they were acting in harmony and concert through several banking institutions with connections with a European capital. Those who were close to Michel al-Khuri, the governor of the Bank of Lebanon, in those days became aware of the degree of the Central Bank's determination to prove its presence in an indubitable way and to go on selling until it could absorb all possible liquidity in the banks.

That intervention coincided with the issuance of treasury bonds and it later became evident that the banks subscribed to only one half their commitments in previous bond issues. This was understood to mean that the banks were also prepared to confront the Central Bank's intervention. This is why 800 million pounds of that bond issue remained [unsold]. The Central Bank persisted with its intervention, absorbing in a single day nearly 250 million. This came on the eve of the indiscriminated shelling which claimed dozens of lives and which was followed by a shut down on the following day in mourning for the innocent victims.

Despite this concerted intervention, the price of the Lebanese pound remained stable but did not improve. This caused observers to experience concern over what the confrontation would lead to, especially since it was taking place in an inconvenient political circumstance charged with tension.

Second, hardly a week had passed on the concerted intervention when the fiscal authority (the Ministry of Finance), in cooperation with the Bank of Lebanon, surprised the banks with another measure in the direction of bolstering the pound's exchange rate. The Ministry of Finance decided to raise the interest paid for the treasury bonds by 2 points at once, raising this interest from 11.5 percent to 13.5 percent for the 3-month bonds, from 11.75 percent to 13.75 percent for the 6-month bonds and from 12 percent to 14 percent for the 1-year bonds. This measure was also the cause of questions raised and of objection even by the Banks Association which is, or at least whose chairman is, consulted in such cases.

In the face of these two successive measures, some believed that a new fiscal policy not witnessed by Lebanon for 2 years and a somewhat "radical" policy had replaced the previous conservative policy. This new policy has aroused the following observations in the banking and financial circles:

First, it is the first time since President Amin al-Jumayyil assumed power that the interest rate for bonds has been raised by 2 percent at once. Throughout this period, the interest rate generally has been characterized by stability, amended occasionally by 0.25-0.50 percent upward or downward, keeping in mind that this period witnessed frequently security setbacks other than those experienced recently.

Second, only once did the Ministry of Finance raise the interest rate for the treasury bonds this year. This was in the wake of the eruption of the security situation in Beirut, the suburb and the mountain on 6 February 1984. But despite

the serious security situation, the raise at the time was limited and amounted to 1.75 percent for the 3-month bonds, with this raise introduced in two phases. The same applied to the 6-month and the 1-year bonds. So why was the interest rate raised 2 percent at once under a security condition that was perhaps less dangerous than the condition prevailing in February?

Third, Dr. Khattar Shibli, the general director of the Ministry of Finance, has been known for years to be "stingy" insofar as raising the interest rate for the bonds is concerned. Every increase occurring previously came on an initiative by the Bank of Lebanon after exhaustive attempts to persuade the general director of the Ministry of Finance who has in this regard a certain viewpoint that is perhaps concerned with the interest of the treasury on the one hand and the interest of the indebted [borrowers] on the other hand.

The latest measure has raised a question regarding this sudden "generosity" on the part of the general director of finance who has been known for his "stinginess" for years, especially since the resignation of 'Adil Hamiyah, the ex-minister of finance, and the appointment of Shibli as acting minister of finance. The fact is that the latest measure has given the impression that ex-President Camille Sham'un, the minister of finance, was behind the decision, especially since he is the kind of minister capable of carrying out what he believes in. This is why the decision to raise the interest rate for the bonds has been important, considering Sham'un's evident imprints on it. Because the decision was issued by ex-President Sham'un specifically, the question that has grown bigger and bigger is: Why has this happened?

Fourth, the inclination of the banks to subscribe to the treasury bonds has been satisfactory generally, regardless of the interest rates. Borrowing from the banking apparatus registered a considerable increase in the past period, especially in 1982 and 1983. It also registered a tangible increase of 2.34 percent in the first 5 months of this year in comparison with the end of 1983. Therefore, the subscription has been increasing, not declining, and the situation did not require incentives, keeping in mind that the banks are compelled to increase their subscription [to the bonds] because the circumstances do not permit them to lend to the private sector in a sound manner free of risks.

Fifth, what is also interesting is that the Bank of Lebanon's intervention in this manner and its raising the interest for the bonds by this degree are two things that have occurred for the first time and their occurrence coincided with the formation of Karami's cabinet with its 10 leaders. This has given the impression that Karami's cabinet has cast its shadow on these two measures.

Sixth, what has bolstered this belief is that it is difficult to adopt two such decisions without prior consultations with higher authorities and with the people concerned in the government and in the regime. Intervention in this manner may lead to draining the reserves of the Bank of Lebanon, and this is something for which not only the governor of the Central Bank will be accountable. Raising the interest rate for the treasury bonds may provoke strong objection from the indebted who are suffering from the accumulation of bank interest on the debts

they owe and from their inability to repay these debts because of the circumstances. This opposition, with its strong reverberations among the businessmen, including both industrialists and merchants, would have made the minister of finance act cautiously if it had not been for consultations with the authorities concerned.

Seventh, these assumptions, which tend to consider the two steps by the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Lebanon an act that reflects a general tendency by the state, raise the fundamental question: Why these unusually radical steps to bolster the pound's exchange rate?

There is not doubt that this policy has generated the following observations?

1. There might be behind these two steps official concern over the occurrence of a security explosion. In such a case, the explosion is sure to topple these two measures and turn the reserve which the Bank of Lebanon pumped into the market into a new "prey" for the speculators.
2. There might be behind these two steps an official confidence in the possibility of the occurrence of a large-scale security relaxation. In such a case, the relaxation will produce positive results for the pound's price that will exceed the results achieved by the steps taken by the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Lebanon, especially since the problem of the pound of confidence.

This is why some observers believe that the two steps cannot be justified by either the expected explosion or the anticipated relaxation. The observers also believe that there is no objection to the measures in principle and that the objection is to the timing and the degree because such extremism may give the inverse impression that the circumstance is critical and dictates such a measure.

Until further results of this measure are revealed, it should be said that what has happened in the fiscal policy does not constitute a "coup" but rather an excess going beyond the customary.

8494

CSO: 4404/572

LEBANON

BRIEFS

SIL'ATA 'PRIVATE' PORT--The future of the northern Sil'ata Port has provoked a political argument whose developments continue, but behind the scenes. The problem concerning this private port arose when Prime Minister Rashid Karami's government abolished a special measure which had been implemented before its formation--a measure embodied in subjecting the goods and materials imported to the northern area and to the areas of Zgharta, Bsharri and Ihdin in particular to the official customs procedures which were applied by officials of the Lebanese Customs Directorate. Ex-President Sulayman Franjiyah has told some northern deputies that in the wake of the conflict erupting between a number of Palestinian resistance factions in Tripoli and its vicinity, we found it impossible to rely completely on Tripoli Port to import our needs from abroad. So, we contacted the state and asked it to subject the private Sil'ata Port to the legal customs procedures so that we may be able to use it temporarily to secure our needs until normalcy is restored to the situation. After formation of Prime Minister Karami's cabinet, we were surprised by the abolition of this measure and by withdrawal of the officials from Sil'ata Port without any payment of the taxes and customs fees which importers through this port must pay. Prime Minister Rashid Karami has an old viewpoint on the issue of the ports which he is seeking to implement and which says that the conditions of the private ports are abnormal conditions which must be dealt with on the basis of the principles of the law and the rights owed to the legitimate government only. There is nothing to justify entrenching the abnormal exceptions. The government has a plan within the framework of the comprehensive security plan which must be applied to all and in all areas. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1444, 6 Jul 84 p 7] 8494

PORTS BUDGET IN 1984--It has become evident that the 1984 budget law, published in the Official Gazette recently, has allocated a sum of 275 million Lebanese pounds for a contract for projects pertaining to the ports controlled by the Ministry of Public Works. The sum will be spent over a period of 6 years as follows: 15 million in 1984, 20 million in 1985, 30 million in 1986, 50 million in 1987, 70 million in 1988 and 90 million in 1989. The basic allocations include the following: 25 million for developing Jubayl Port, 75 million for work on al-Dawrah and Juniyah Ports, 70 million for developing Sidon Port, 30 million for developing al-Batrun Port, 40 millions for developing Tyre Port, 12 millions for developing al-'Abdah Port, and 11 millions for Sayda Port in Tripoli. It is to be noted that the appropriation is founded on equal shares for the port south of Beirut and those north of the city. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1444, 6 Jul 84 p 51] 8494

INDIA PROTESTS FRG RELEASE OF TALWINDER SINGH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Jul 84 p 8

[Text]

India has expressed its "surprise and disappointment" that the West German Government has freed terrorist Talwinder Singh who is wanted for many crimes in this country and for whose extradition a fool-proof case had been made by New Delhi.

Talwinder Singh, wanted in a murder case in Punjab since November 1981, was released from a Dusseldorf prison last week where he was in custody of the West German police since his arrest at the border with the Netherlands on 29 June 1983.

India had requested the West German Government for his extradition, and because there is no formal treaty for extradition between the two countries, India based its case on laws for international assistance in bringing criminals to book, an accord which West Germany has been associated with.

In fact, so strong was the New Delhi case against Talwinder Singh that his being handed over to the Indian police was considered a matter of days as the legal formalities were reaching a conclusion.

Talwinder's release from prison caught the

Indian diplomats in West Germany by surprise. New Delhi itself has found the release totally inexplicable, and a foreign office spokesman on Monday noted that West Germany had not given any reasons as to why the legal proceedings for Talwinder's extradition were terminated suddenly.

Indian Ambassador in Bonn, former foreign secretary R D Sathe, was himself kept in the dark about the West German intentions to release Talwinder. When Mr Sathe came to know of it he lodged an official protest with West German Government.

The story, broken by Patriot last week, evoked strong reactions in official and political circles in New Delhi.

The Bonn action is considered totally unwarranted in the light of the friendly relations that exist between the two countries and West Germany's own proclaimed commitment to fight terrorism.

Talwinder Singh, who is now in Canada, is believed to be behind several murders in Punjab, particularly the killing of six Hindu bus passengers near Amritsar.

CSO: 5650/0089

BANGLADESH INVOLVED IN TRIPURA REBEL ACTIVITIES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jul 84 p 5

[Text]

Agartala:

President of the underground Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) Bejoy Rangkhali has been meeting Bangladesh President Lt Gen Ershad frequently these days.

A recent meeting took place in a missionary school, where Rangkhali usually stays during his sojourn at Dhaka. State intelligence sources told Patriot that a source revealed that the meeting was held on 17 May at a 'secret place on the outskirts of Dhaka'.

The meeting was arranged by some top officers of the National Security Intelligence (NSI) who run the organisation's Chittagong division. The NSI has a 'forward camp' at Mariswa in the Chittagong hill tracts which maintains the links with the TNV rebels based at Singlum in Chittagong.

About eight hours walking distance from Simanpur, a bordering village in north Tripura's Kanchanapur tribal development block the 'Mariswa camp' is manned by an officer who pulled the first deal with the TNV rebels through the 'good offices' of the MNF New Lankan tactical headquarters' self-styled 'Colonel' Lalrawliana in May, 1983.

This team of officers led by a major had been maintaining links with the Tripura rebel chief and is directly reporting back to the President's personal intelligence staff. The practice had been followed ever since Bejoy Rangkhali established contact with the Bangladesh authorities at the Mariswa camp on 25 May. Rangkhali's trusted lieutenant, the tall lanky Anant Debbarman was also present at the four-hour meeting after which Rangkhali returned to the TNV tactical headquarters at Singlum. On 6 May, Rangkhali visited Chittagong along with the NSI officer from Mariswa and held a 'secret meeting' with some

high-ranking officers close to General Ershad. The officers reportedly passed on the message — 'go ahead'. Ever since then, Rangkhali's followers have been based at Singlum, which they declare as their 'capital'.

A recent letter to newsmen claims that the TNV has a 'government-in-exile' with its capital at Singlum, adding that the TNV is "pledged to carry out armed insurgency against India". They also "extended recognition to the Government of Khalistan headed by Jagjit Singh Chauhan".

The first batch of fresh TNV recruits were cleared for operations following a passing-out parade on 8 October at Singlum. The parade was personally inspected by Lalrawliana, chief of the MNF tactical headquarters. Some of the NSI officers from Mariswa were also said to be present on the occasion.

Demolishing the complacency prevailing in official circles here following the surrender and disbandment of the underground All Tripura People's Liberation Organisation (ATPLO), the TNV struck at last year-end. The surging tempo of extremist operations ever since has rendered the local populace benumbed with fear and the Left Government badly shaken.

In the last one year, Rangkhali has been to Dhaka on at least eight occasions, according to confessions of captured rebels like Biswa Kolo. Each time he comes back from Dhaka, he announces 'glittering prospects' of help and support from General Ershad. Informed circles here believe that the 17 May meeting was organised with a dual purpose — Ershad on his part wanted to find out whether the TNV is willing to go on its own with Dhaka help in case the MNF surrenders in large numbers to the new Congress-I Government in Mizoram; secondly what kind of help does the TNV chief actually need to boost up his organisation.

Following the meeting, General Ershad has instructed the NSI boss at Mariswa to keep regular liaison with the TNV chief. Though it is not known as to what exactly transpired at the meeting, the TNV chief is reported to have asked for 'direct support' from Dhaka with no go-between. The rationale seems to be that a link should remain to keep the movement going, even if the MNF calls it a day. President Ershad seems to have agreed and the result was a second meeting at Khagrachari in the Chittagong hill tracts on 8 July.

After the President had addressed a tribal public meeting urging the rebel Shanti Bahini to surrender, he was driven off to the residence of a senior military officer. The meeting with Rangkhali took place at the dead of night, in which the NSI officer at Mariswa was also present. Rangkhali reportedly presented a detailed report of his organisation, its activities, and require-

ments. He also assured President Ershad that the spate of surrenders from extremist ranks, which gathered momentum in 1983, had been staved off and that more recruits were joining the TNV. In other words, the mystique of the TNV has been revived. The President reportedly assured the rebel chief that "we shall do the needful".

There seems to be a division of opinion between some military officers in Bangladesh that the help to the TNV to the extent of providing them offensive capabilities for 'operations in Indian territory' might be counter-productive diplomatically. This opinion group has reportedly advised the President that the TNV should be boosted up, only if they promise to cooperate in counter-insurgency operations against the Shanti Bahini's predominantly Chakma rebels.

The MNF has a tradition of cooperating with Pakistani, and then Bangladeshi authorities along these lines. Two MNF rebel 'brigades' actively

fought Mukti Fauj detachments alongside the Pakistani army during the two battles for the strategic border town of Ramgarh in the Chittagong hills in 1971. Subsequently, they collaborated with the Zia regime during the military actions against the Shanti Bahini.

But, given the Mizos' traditional hatred for the Chakmas, the TNV just cannot afford to do it.

They have to cross large stretches of the Chakma-inhabited belt before they reach the hilly confines of Tripura. They can hardly afford to fight Chakmas, which would affect their support bases in certain tribal pockets in Tripura and draw the wrath of the Shanti Bahini, which though divided, is a force to reckon with.

It is not known whether the Ershad regime has insisted that the TNV must support the Dhaka troops in their anti-Shanti Bahini drive and Rangkhali seems to argue, whenever posed with this question that his is a nascent small outfit determined to 'fight non-tribals in Tripura'. Any dissipation of energy and the outfit may get ruined, he argues.

This is the only major snag still affecting a full-fledged understanding between Dhaka and the TNV. But with the frequent meetings between Ershad and Rangkhali, it may not be long before the matter is sorted out.

Top-secret security reports indicate that General Ershad is unwilling to heed the military leaders who insist that participation in anti-Shanti Bahini operations should be made a precondition of assistance to TNV at the moment.

And this, under the influence of the pro-US section of the Dhaka army, which holds that support to TNV offensive actions in Tripura might be a deterrent factor against 'possible Indian help' to Shanti Bahini. This pro-US lobby is raking up the "India factor" for obvious reasons.

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES BRIBERY, CORRUPTION

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Aug 84 p 1

[Interview with Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by reporters on 8 Aug 84 in Tehran]

[Text] The second joint meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Cabinet was held on Wednesday morning in the presence of Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili and Prime Minister Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi, where issues in common were discussed.

At the end of the session, Chief Justice Musavi-Ardabili and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi explained the issues discussed in an interview with reporters.

The chief justice said:

In this session, issues such as the overlapping of the two branches and selections were discussed and the conclusions were postponed to the next session.

He added: Another issue in today's session concerned government buildings for which eviction notices have been issued. If the concerned authority or director feels it is necessary to remain in those buildings, he must send his opinion along with the proper documents to the Supreme Judicial Council for examination. If the ruling of the Judicial Council is in favor of the claim, the prosecutor general will stop the implementation of the ruling, even if an eviction notice has been issued.

He said: At the present time, we have buildings which are the personal property of individuals and are at the disposal of the government. It would be impossible for the government to construct buildings for all of its affairs.

He added: In such cases, when the owners request evictions, the judges are required in accordance with the law to issue eviction

rulings. This is one of the flaws in the system, which fortunately has been eliminated to some extent.

The Statements of the Prime Minister

Engineer Musavi, the prime minister, also said: This meeting proved that it can be helpful in the implementation of affairs. In the executive branch, we feel that we will be able to resolve many of the problems and eliminate many of the imperfections.

He said: The issue of selection faces some problems today and has placed a heavy burden on the shoulders of the judicial branch, which if resolved would be a great help to the executive branch.

The prime minister said: One of the issues about which we have reached an understanding in today's meeting is safeguarding the administrative offices and the executive branch against financial corruption, because our country is a wealthy country with vast transactions and large investments as well as a complicated administrative system in which the possibility for financial corruption may exist. Essentially, in every system there are punishments to prevent such problems and we think that in our Islamic society, considering that the whole nation and the people are the eyes and ears, this problem can be decisively dealt with. On the other hand, considering the religious standards in these issues, there certainly can be specific punishments to prevent such problems. For this reason, it was determined that financial corruption and bribery should be dealt with decisively.

He added: In this connection, the executive branch has certain duties which will be implemented with the necessary care and alertness of the revolutionary institutions existing in the administrative system and the factories.

The prime minister said: This kind of crime may be considered common in many systems, but, such crimes in the Islamic Republic can harm the prestige of the system. Hence, the punishment for this kind of crime is very heavy and alertness in this area is the duty of the faithful forces among the authorities and all those who are working in the executive system. If they are alert, a major portion of this task will be accomplished.

Also, in connection with greater unity and order between the judicial and executive branches in resolving social hardships, Musavi-Ardabili said: The judicial system is very complicated. Recently, it was determined that various judicial organizations should describe their duties and if there are overlaps, they are due to the lack of familiarity of the individuals who do not know where to go to resolve their problems. With the clarification of

the description of the duties of each part of the judicial system, this problem will be resolved.

He added: In order to guide the people, a division called the guidance division has been established within the Prosecutor's Office. This is very beneficial, but insufficient. Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said: This problem is not exclusive to our country, but is found in all countries. The complication of the Supreme Judicial Council is due to the nature of the task. Abroad, they make use of legal councils for this purpose, which has not yet become customary in Iran.

Hijacking

In connection with the hijacking of the Islamic Republic of Iran's airliner last night and in connection with the hijacking of the Air France airplane to Tehran, the prime minister said: I think that before being related to the recent Air France airplane hijacking, it is related to the great hajj pilgrimage. The very sensitive role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the hajj pilgrimage has repercussions and airplanes which serve these ceremonies are hijacked.

These actions are supported by the West, including France and the United States, throughout the world and before harming us, they harm the great world powers. We are strong and have learned how to deal with such actions.

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CSO: 4640/364

MESHKINI: CLERGY SHOULD BE WARY OF ALL DISAGREEMENTS

Tehran BURS in Persian 9 Aug 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani: Our revolution is hostile to Eastern and Western oppression because of their heathenism, aggression, and plunder of the rights of the oppressed nations.

The experts elected by the nation, the religious jurists of the Council of Guardians, the members of the Supreme Judicial Council, and the central council of the combative society of clerics participated in a dinner banquet arranged by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In these ceremonies, in which Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni was also present, after the performance of evening and night prayers led by Ayatollah Meshkini, the president welcomed those present, called such rare and exceptional meetings necessary given the present situation of the society and invited Ayatollah Meshkini, the speaker of the Assembly of Experts, to provide moral guidance with his speech.

Then Ayatollah Meshkini, referring to the important statements of the imam last year about the clergy and their role in the society, said: The clergy must try never to deviate from the peculiarities of being a cleric, that is, a student of theology.

Emphasizing that since the clerics are at the head of affairs and must be careful to avoid any sort of disagreement, Ayatollah Meshkini added:

Because the clerics are pioneers in all affairs, they must also make an effort to preserve unity in the society. God willing, unity will always be preserved.

Then, pointing out that God has granted success to the Iranian people in creating a revolution which, along with those who are at the head of affairs, is a miracle of history, the speaker of

the Assembly of Experts said: God has created a flower garden in Iran in which Abrahams are nurtured. We ask all the directors not only to be united in their hearts under the shadow of the imam of the nation in the stabilization phase, but also to remain so once stabilization is achieved. In conclusion, Ayatollah Meshkini prayed for a long life for his holiness the imam, wished for the rapid victory of the Islamic combatants in their battle against heathenism and atheism, and expressed gratitude for the greatness of such brave children on the battlegrounds. In the continuation of these ceremonies, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke on the political issues of the day and the political situation of the region and said: Such a meeting in the presence of very valuable personalities and elements in the country is in itself magnificent. However, the statements of our revered and constant teacher Ayatollah Meshkini elevated the session.

Mr Hashemi added: Our Islamic revolution faces situations in which many problems are unavoidable, even predictable. It is only the divine revolution and His invisible power that can show the true nature of the revolution. Our revolution is by nature hostile towards the material values of today's world.

The deputy speaker of the Assembly of Experts pointed out: We are the followers of Islam. The Iranian nation did not move for itself alone. It made a revolution as a spokesman of divine inspiration and the statements of the Prophet and messenger of the divine message. He added:

Our revolution is hostile towards Eastern and Western oppression because of their heathenism and their invasion and plunder of the rights of the oppressed nations. As the spokesman of Islam, we cannot ignore hostility towards them. This decisive and magnificent movement cannot be ineffective for the billions of oppressed people of the world.

The speaker of the Majlis added: When one looks at the faces of you honorable people, one realizes the truly great human investment this revolution has made, and this capital supports all our claims.

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CSO: 4640/364

EMIGRE PAPER CLAIMS CLERICS INTEND 'TO MASSACRE ARMENIANS'

Tehran ARA in Persian No 17, 4 Aug 84 pp 1,2

[Paris ARA in Persian; weekly published by Iranian dissidents]

[Text] The clerics are conspiring to massacre the Iranian Armenians.

Every day, the clerics begin a new shout, like drunken beasts, which ends in the slaughter of a group of innocent people. One day they engage in fighting the Jews, plundering their property and sending their well known men before the execution squad. Sometimes they send the Baha'is to the slaughterhouse, massacring their old and young, even children. For months, they have been quarrelling with the Sunnis and have brought fratricide to its height in Kurdistan and Baluchestan, and now they have turned against our Armenian compatriots.

The cleric Rafsanjani sounded the alarm bell in the following manner in one of his Friday prayer sermons: The "Armenians are causing trouble. Their children refuse to take examinations in schools. Armenians put up resistance and have raised their expectations higher than usual in this country. We have not as yet treated them with violence." The speaker of the Majlis of the regime threatens the Armenians with this latter statement. To the clerics, violence means massacre. But the Armenians of Iran are not willows which tremble in such a wind . . .

Even though the Jewish community of Iran tolerated the oppression and injustice of the clerics with their characteristic patience until finally the Islamic government extended its hands towards Israel begging for arms and as a result left them in peace temporarily, or even though the Zoroastrians have merely devoted their attention to the preservation of their national tradition and culture vis-a-vis the "de-Iranization" efforts of the regime, the Armenians will not be taken to the slaughterhouse with their hands and feet tied. No matter how stupid the clerics are, they still realize this point.

The clerics have given the order to the Armenians that in their parochial schools, their religious propagation must not be done in Armenian. But the Armenians have resisted this illogical order. What does this mean? Should the Armenian children read the Bible in Arabic?

Of course, these are excuses. The main purpose of the clerics is to create discord among Iranian communities, including Shi'ites, Sunnis, Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians.

But with its bright cultural and historical past, the Iranian nation will never be deceived by this new conspiracy of the clerics and will not draw their swords on their Armenian brothers, because, regardless of the fact that Armenians are Arians and one of the most authentic people, of the same blood as the Iranian people, Iran has essentially been a country that has been a refuge for all people of every race, religion or creed.

Cyrus the Great was the savior of the Jewish people, and Shirin the Armenian princess was the pride and favorite wife of the Sassanian king. Even after the Arab invasion and the spread of Islam in Iran, the Jewish synagogues and Zoroastrian temples were directly protected by Iranian kings, as were the Islamic holy places.

In the hall of the historical cathedral in Jolfa, the decrees of the Iranian kings from the Safavids to the Pahlavis attract attention. All of them have protected the great cathedral of the Armenians.

The Iranian Armenians are among the most noble religious minorities in Iran, who have always been loyal to their homeland. Armenian men headed by Yeprem Khan fought side by side and became martyrs with their other Iranian brothers in the Constitutional revolution.

In the modern Iranian army, Armenian officers have been examples of discipline and self-sacrifice. A large number of prominent and notable Iranians have Armenian roots and have come from Yerevan and Nakhjevan. Many of the great composers, painters, distinguished artists, and well known physicians of Iran are Armenians. Armenian workers are the most careful and skillful technicians in Iran. Armenian poets and writers have expressed their love for Iran in their poetry and writings. The representatives of the Armenians have always sincerely sided with the interests and well being of Iran in all the terms of the Majlis. Even during the blossoming period of Iran, marriages between Iranian Armenians and Muslims were among the most common occurrences of the day.

What does it mean to consider Armenians separate from other Iranians?

It is an immature and false idea these clerics nurture in their empty heads that Iran would start a war between the Armenians and Muslims. Such a tragedy has never occurred in Iran and will never occur later either . . ., unless they have in mind to massacre the Armenians like the other Iranian nationalities and religious followers at the hands of the terrorists who have been trained in Libya and Lebanon.

This would be the greatest mistake, because, as the cleric Rafsanjani, despite all his ignorance, has realized: "They will put up resistance."

History has proven that Armenians do not forget blood, and Armenian blood always boils.

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CSO: 4640/363

EDUCATORS RECEIVE GUIDANCE ON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] The country's regional directors of education arrived in Tehran to participate in their annual seminar. On Thursday afternoon, 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, the minister of education, and several of the deputies of the Ministry of Education met with President Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In this visit, first the minister of education spoke about the aims of the annual seminar of the regional directors of education. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i stressed the seriousness of the issue of education. Then, making the point that without a correct understanding of education, planning cannot be carried out and without planning, we cannot progress, he said: If the brave, powerful movement of our nation today is not accompanied by an educational leap, we will certainly stay behind in the area of education. Educational efforts and movement are not easily tangible, but will have their effects and delays will also rob us of the resources for a cure. It is the authorities, teachers, administrators and those involved in education who must feel that the heaviest burden of the revolution is on their shoulders. Fortunately, such seminars promise the attainment of new methods, short avenues, and possible efforts to improve the quality of the task.

Continuing his statements, the president emphasized that with the utmost care we must raise the moral and spiritual quality of the education of our students and said: To forget or pay little attention to the fact that spiritual and moral education in our schools plays a pivotal role would endanger the future of the revolution. At every hiding place and every crossroads there are individuals with ill will watching with keen eyes and observing the situation. We must be careful to take the necessary care in training our children. If, despite our raising the level of courses, this care is not taken, we will not produce desirable results. We must create a future generation of beings of steel

with impenetrable hearts and staunch wills; and you must build such individuals. The heavy, even back-breaking burden, which is to be placed on the shoulders of the future generation can only be carried with long-term goals by those whose spiritual structure is sufficiently strong and solid. To continue any task is more difficult than to start it. The motivation and attractiveness which begin any task as well as the fewer difficulties make it exciting to start a task. But motivations decrease along the way, problems become more outstanding and more difficult, and, consequently, it becomes more difficult to continue the task. If you do not have the necessary vision for the future, your next step will be impossible.

The president recommended that with the language of children and pleasant tools, the real attraction of morality and spirituality must be instilled in the pure yet limited minds of the children and they must be brought closer to sound morality and spirituality. He added: You directors must observe strict Islamic morality in your areas and also recommend to your administrators and those involved in education that they act accordingly, observing Islamic morality.

You must make the educational atmosphere one of morality, sincerity, and spirituality and extend it to the depths of the classrooms as well.

In another part of his speech, the president emphasized to the high ranking educational authorities the devising of lesson materials, methodology, and the beginning of vast, compassionate efforts in this path and added: The foundation of quality lessons requires general revision and educational fields which conform to the needs of the future generations of this society must be formed. Today, if children are allowed to pursue the easier--and as they imagine, their favorite--and more attractive fields, tomorrow we will have to bring from abroad as many persons, who possess neither the morality, the education, nor the intelligence of our own children. We must find ways to encourage the students towards the fields for which the country has a need. Also, do not neglect the hidden treasures in the villages. Make more use of them by evaluating their abilities and their intellectual and spiritual personalities. With correct planning, technical and professional fields must be strengthened and children must be encouraged to enter them. Pointing out that another essential task in education is to create healthy teacher training schools, the president added: We must invest in creating such schools as much as possible to produce faithful, educated, high level, and strong teachers. This can be done with minimal resources, too. In an atmosphere in which pleasantness and sincerity, which are the main essence of unity, exist, much can be accomplished. In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i explained the effective role of the people's participation in all

affairs and the necessity for utilizing the people's forces in the advancement of affairs and said: It is wrong for us to think that the government will be able to accomplish anything in implementing the principle of public education, with which the Constitution also charges us, without the help of the people. Today, the same motivation of the faith and belief of the people must be utilized and you must encourage them to make material and spiritual investments in this area. With the investment of the people in education, offering them the opportunity to work under the supervision and control of the government, this task can be accomplished. We have benefitted from the kindness and resources of the people everywhere and we have achieved some desirable results. If not for the penetrating and mature spirit of that philosopher who understands the people, our beloved imam, to hold the people by the hand and bring them to the arena, rest assured that neither would this revolution have been created nor would it have lasted. Nowhere in the world can a country can be found in which the support of the people is as vast as it is in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are in reality with the people and if not for the help of the people, we would not exist. The people must be respected and honored and their participation under the supervision of the government must be utilized to the utmost. Therefore, you must make the maximum necessary efforts in this area.

Meeting of Educational Authorities with Speaker of the Majlis

The regional directors of education from throughout the country, the deputies of the Ministry of Education, the general administrators of the headquarters, and the experts of this Ministry met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, on Thursday afternoon. In this visit, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in a speech: It would be an illogical mistake for us to think that the reforms we have implemented since the revolution in regards to the changes in the method of education are sufficient. We can never be satisfied with limited changes in the educational system. Considering the imperfections and shortcomings that are more or less recognized, education must, more than other organizations, engage in eliminating these imperfections. Of course, various contacts which we have with students, teachers, and parents of students show that in these six years, much change has taken place and the situation is completely different from before.

The speaker of the Majlis then criticized the degree-seeking disposition prevalent in the previous regime and said: The strong disposition for degree-seeking has stopped our educated people from engaging in physical work. Of course, with the many struggling students going to remote villages as well as the departure of many of the government employees to remote areas, a great step has been taken in breaking this false disposition.

For this reason, we try not to emphasize degrees, and you see such examples in the Majlis, the government, and other organizations. If there are competent and hard working people, they are accepted everywhere. This this is not the goal of Islam, but it is a step in that direction. It is necessary for elementary and high schools, the mass media, such as the Voice and Vision, newspapers, mosques, and libraries to join hands and by creating a deep qualitative change, to increase the output of the work and efforts of the young people several fold. Only in this way will our society provide for its needs from within. The imposed war has absorbed some of our budget and resources, but after the war ends, we will face a shortage of competent forces. Considering that we have a shortage of experts in every field, such as road building, mines, geology, dam construction, and practical jobs at high levels and in many fields, if our present restrictions are eliminated, a need will be felt for many more competent individuals than in the past. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: Because of the damages inflicted and the corruption and distrust of the planning of the foreign experts, it is not desirable to make use of them. Of course, these experts would welcome our wanting to make use of them because of the great profits that they receive. But this is not what we have in mind. It is better for our educated and schooled people not to be ashamed of using such tools as the shovel, the screw driver, and the automobile. This false way of thinking and disposition must be eliminated in the minds of our educated people. The phrase unemployed high school graduate is shameful to us. Jobs exist for everyone. Why can you not find an unemployed Afghan? If there were no jobs, they would not exist for the Afghans either. The problem is that some of our educated people think that physical work is wrong. Many of the educated people, when they go abroad, are prepared to wash dishes, clean, and do other menial work to make a living, but when they return to Iran, they would not sit at the wheel of a tractor. Addressing the education authorities, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: By creating short-term training courses, you can familiarize the students with the needed trades and prepare them rapidly to eliminate the needs of the country. You can increase the number of technical and trade schools. Even in the field of medicine, you can create short-term courses. The main thing is that students must be somehow psychologically prepared to accept physical work. While taking short-term courses, they can continue their education at higher levels. These tasks are not those of the universities, but those of education. When we see that a simple worker without any expertise has a higher income than a low-level government employee, we must prepare the grounds in their minds for accepting physical work. Many of our high school graduates wish to do administrative and government work but avoid physical work. Now, if we want to have a correct system, more worthwhile employment must be provided for the excess number of present government employees.

In conclusion, referring to the needs of many of the institutions for competent individuals, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked the education authorities to draft proposals for the training of students and the utilization of the stratum between the illiterate and the highly educated and to innovatively prepare the grounds for the continuation of education through higher levels as well as specializations.

10,000
CSO: 4640/357

IRAN

SOLAR ENERGY UTILIZED IN DESALINIZATION PROJECTS

Tehran BURS in Persian 24 Jul 84 p 5

[Article: "Manner of Operation of the Country's First Solar Desalinization System Explained"]

[Excerpt] Potable water for the village of Baba Cheshmeh-ye Asfarin is obtained by distilling salt water with sunlight.

In announcing this, the Iran Atomic Energy Organization gave a report on the manner of construction and operation of the country's first solar desalinization system, the first example of which has been built in one of the villages of the municipality of Asfarin.

The report said that after more than 2 years of study and use of various desalinization systems at the centers for the study and testing of new energy, a decision was made to build a solar water desalinization plant for a 1000-person village and to test it in one of the country's villages. After preliminary studies the project was carried out at the village of Baba Chashmeh-ye Asfarin because of the suitability of its location. The basic design of this solar desalinization device is a tub with a cover of sloped glass. The tub has a reinforced concrete body with two walls, one higher than the other; the glass roof slopes when laid across these two walls because of the difference in height. The tub has insulated layers on the bottom to capture water and prevent the loss of heat energy.

In this system, salt water is fed into the desalinization device from storage, and a maximum of solar energy is drawn into the bottom and sides by the water after entering through the sloped glass. After the solar heat is drawn in and heats the water, evaporation takes place, and the steam turns into drops of water when it contacts the cold glass. The latent heat of the steam is returned to the glass during condensation and is then mostly transferred to the surrounding air by the glass. The condensation forms drops of water which increase in size as it continues.

The larger drops of water on the lower surface of the sloped glass begin to move and drip into a gutter which has been placed in the tank to catch them, and then flow out of the desalinization device into a special tank. In this project, a galvanized storage tank has been attached to the device containing additional salt water, which may be released into the main reservoir as needed with a spigot. A separate system of drainage pipes is planned for flushing surplus water.

According to this report, systems of this type with a usable area of 10 square meters produce an average of 30 liters of potable water daily in the spring and 35 liters daily in the summer. Noting that examples of various solar desalinization systems have been constructed at the Center for Testing and Researching New Energy, the report said that such systems built in our country may be compared with those built in other countries.

9310

CSO: 4640/367

MAZANDARAN SAID TO HAVE MOST RURAL ELECTRICITY

Tehran BURS in Persian 17 Jul 84 p 4

[Article: "Province of Mazandaran Has Highest Number of Villages With Electrical Power"]

[Text] In order to increase distribution capacity and respond to the rapid growth in electrical consumption in the Province of Mazandaran, during the coming year [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986] the capacity of this province's 20-to 63-kilovolt power stations will be increased from 410 megavolt amperes to 625 megavolt amperes. The number of power stations to be installed will amount to almost half the power of existing stations in the province.

The acting director of the Mazandaran Regional Power Corporation gave an exclusive interview to a correspondent from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY. After announcing the above, he added: The above stations will be installed by the middle of next year as replacements for the Daryasar and Babolsar stations and as new posts at Shirgah, Bandar Gaz, Aq Qola, Jadehe-e, Hezar, Bandar-e Gaz Zir-e Ab, 'Atta Abad Gorgan, Bandar-e Torkeman the Sari educational complex, Station Two at Gorgan, Nahar Khoran, and Station Two at Qa'em Shahr.

He then referred to the 2.45 billion rials in rural development credit and last year's distribution projects for the Mazandaran Regional Power Corporation, 1.75 billion rials of which were obtained from the government, the rest from this company's monetary income. He said: This corporation's credit of more than 3.69 billion rials in the current year has increased more than 7 percent over last year. Of this amount, around 1.812 billion rials came from national credits; 22 percent of the total has been drawn since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1984]. He added: In rural projects for 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] the Mazandaran Regional Power Corporation is providing electricity to 40 villages, securing and strengthening power networks in province villages with electricity, including the construction of administration buildings for 14 rural service centers in order to provide technical and maintenance service to shareholders and villagers, with the allocation of 430 billion rials in provincial credit and using domestic financial resources.

With the procurement of 3.27 billion rials credit, the distribution project for the year 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] will include the installation of lines and the installation of 63- and 20-kilovolt and low voltage power stations in various parts of the province, including construction projects and expanding the power of existing stations and networks in the province.

He added: Since around 50 percent of the power shareholders in the province of Mazandaran are villagers, the 2,400 villages provided with power so far in the province give Mazandaran more villages with electrical power than any other province in the country.

He stated that delivering electrical power to the rest of the villages in the province will require solutions to problems with construction materials and transportation and computer equipment. He added: With regard to this it is anticipated that this corporation will obtain a suitable computer from the Iran Information Organization. In conclusion, he commented on the Mazandaran Regional Power Organization's first five-year plan. He said: In view of the fact that research in this area shows that during the first five-year plan electrical power consumption in Mazandaran will increase 5 percent annually, so that it is predicted that the 260 megavolt consumption of 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983] will increase to 550 megavolts by 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988], during the first five-year plan 760 kilometers of 63 kilovolt lines will be constructed, 1,250 kilometers of 20 kilovolt lines, and 260 kilometers of low voltage lines. The power of stations already in existence in 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983] will increase from 365 megavolt amperes to 800 megavolt amperes in 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988]. In this regard, 5,000 aerial transformers will be installed along the lines, and 20 percent of this program has been completed at this time.

9310

CSO: 4640/366

IRAN

FARM MACHINERY DISTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS REGIONS

147 Tractors in Hormozegan

Tehran BURS in Persian 9 Aug 84 p 4

[Text] During the first three months of the current year [21 March - 21 June 1984] 147 tractors worth 67.746 million rials were issued to farmers and other units by the Farm Machinery Distribution Foundation of Hormozegan Province.

The supervisor of the Farm Machinery Distribution Foundation of Hormozegan Province was interviewed by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY. While announcing this, he said: In the same period 35 disk harrows valued at 2.9 million rials were issued to the province's farmers. Other services provided by the Farm Machinery Distribution Foundation of Hormozegan during this period included the issuance of 113 harvest tillers, 58 plows, and 10 bulldozer blades with a total value of 36.7932 million rials, agricultural hand tools valued at 50 million rials, free spare parts for tractors under warranty with a total value of 550 thousand rials, and 147 tractor service and repair calls.

47 Tractors in Sabzevar

Tehran BURS in Persian 9 Aug 84 p 5

[Text] Since the beginning of the current year [21 Mar 1984] 47 tractors have been issued for cash and scheduled payments by the Agricultural Committee of the Sabzevar Reconstruction Crusade to qualified farmers in the Joghtay, Davarzi, and Sheshtamed districts of this municipality.

5,791 Tractors Nationwide

Tehran BURS in Persian 9 Aug 84 p 5

[Text] During the first three months of the current year [21 March - 21 June 1984] the East Azarbaijan Farm Machinery Distribution Foundation released more than 3,670 Rumanian tractors and 2,121 Massey Ferguson tractors from the Tabriz tractor factory for shipment and delivery to farmers in the country's other provinces. The supervisor of the Farm Machinery Distribution Foundation of East Azarbaijan was interviewed by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS SERVICE. While announcing the item above, he added: During this period, 50 tractors,

542 plows, 217 disk harrows, 87 harvest tillers, and 3 front tractor blades were distributed among East Azarbaijan farmers by this Foundation. He added: By the end of the current year [20 March 1985] 2,784 Massey Ferguson and Rumanian tractors will be distributed to qualified farmers in the province. Other activities of the Farm Machinery Distribution Foundation mentioned by its supervisor were the distribution of 840,133 rials in spare parts at no charge, and the sale of 2.366397 rials in spare parts for agricultural machinery to farmers during the aforementioned time period. He added: During the same period more than 47.627 million rials in debts due to the foundation were collected from farmers.

Sabzevar Machinery Loans

Tehran BURS in Persian 24 Jul 84 p 2

[Article by Hashemi, BURS supervisor in Khorasan]

[Text] Mashhad--BURS Correspondent--The Mashhad center of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS SERVICE reports: Since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1984] 19 tractors with a total value of 23.75 million rials were issued to qualified Sabzevar farmers for purchase in installments over a five-year period by the reconstruction crusade; also issued were agricultural tools and machinery with a total value of 5.18 million rials. The agricultural tools included plows, deep furrow and surface plows, threshing machines, large and small disk harrows, and gutter shovels. According to the same report, during the first three months of the current year [21 March - 21 June 1984] the Agricultural Bank of the Municipality of Sabzevar paid a total of 39.171 million rials in five-year loans to the rural residents of Sabzevar for dredging and repairing underground canals and digging and fitting deep and semi-deep wells.

9310

CSO: 4640/365

IRAN

MILLIONS SPENT ON RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Tehran BURS in Persian 24 Jul 84 p 3

[Article: "Fourteen Million Rials Allocated for Implementing Reconstruction Projects"]

[Text] Last year [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] the Treasury and Economics Office of the Municipality of Chabahar paid more than 140.785 million rials for implementing reconstruction projects in public health training, municipal agricultural environmental improvement, and physical training to the organizations concerned.

The supervisor of the Saravan Treasury and Economics Office was interviewed by a correspondent from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY. While announcing the above, he said: Out of 140.785698 million rials, 21.428 million rials were used to construct dikes and an administration building for the Agricultural Administration; 37.5 million rials were spent on water distribution projects and establishing health services and running water in the Navar Marz villages for environmental improvement; 33.9 million rials were spent building health clinics and a training center for the health network; 20.961775 million rials were spent constructing six schools for the Administration of Education and Training; 4.995 million rials were spent building a gym for the Physical Training Administration, and two million rials were paid to the Saravan Mayor's office for the construction of a square at the gateway to the city. He also said: Since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1984] six million rials in credit were allocated to the health network, and 500 thousand rials in credit were allocated to the Saravan Physical Training Administration for reconstruction projects. Among other measures taken by this city's Treasury and Economics Office, he also mentioned more than 3 million rials in pensions paid to this municipality's retired workers last year [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984].

9310

CSO: 4640/365

STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE MISUSE

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Aug 84 p 23

/Text/Shahr-e Kord, KEYHAN repoter; "All the foreign assignments of government and revolutionary institution officials have been placed under the supervision and control of the national inspection organization in order to prevent the uncontrolled exit of currency. The results of such assignments will be studied carefully and the necessary reminders will be extended to the concerned organizations in regards to excessive and beneficial assignments."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohagqeq-Damad, the director of the national inspection organization, who traveled at the head of a delegation to the Province of Chaharmahall and Bakhtiari to become familiar with the tribal problems and study the reasons for the lack of progress on a few developmental projects, made the above announcement in a press and radio interview and responded to questions regarding the activities of the general inspection organization of the country since the victory of the revolution, programs underway in this organization in regards to supervision over the implementation of the laws, and the proper course of affairs in the country. In this interview, referring to the activities of the general inspection organization of the country, he said: In the course of the past year, all the lands, factories, companies and establishments which belong to the government of the Islamic Republic abroad have been identified. At the present time, the general inspection organization of the country is engaged in an overall study concerning the upkeep, costs, and procedures for operating such property and land. The results of these studies along with the useful opinions and suggestions offered will be announced to the proper authorities for a decision.

In connection with the major transactions of the ministries and government organizations, including purchases and sales, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohagqeq-Damad said: All these transactions, especially the major purchases and sales of various administrative offices, including the offices of governors general, governors offices,

and every municipal office of the country, are controlled and supervised and are carefully evaluated.

He mentioned the follow-up and study of the developmental funds of the ministries and offices of the governors general among the other activities of the general inspection organization of the country and said: In these studies, the reasons for the failure to use the developmental funds of some of the projects, due to the lack of familiarity and expertise on the part of some executive officials, are studied and in this connection the opinions of the general inspection organization of the country on improvements and directions will be presented to the proper authorities, including the Majlis committee on Article 90.

He added: In the area of supervision of the absorption of the budget and expenditures of the government administrative offices and establishments, we have certain programs underway and excessive expenditures are decisively dealt with.

In regards to the creation of the offices and agencies of the general inspection organization of the country in the capitals of the provinces and provincial cities, he said: This issue has been anticipated in the law for the general inspection organization of the country, but since the person in charge of every inspection unit must be a competent judge whose competence is approved by the Supreme Judicial Council, and on the other hand, we are facing a shortage of judges who meet the requirements, as soon as this shortage is eliminated, we will take steps to establish offices in the centers of the provinces and provincial cities. But at the present time, we benefit from the competent and expert forces who are loyal to the revolution in various parts of the country on a temporary basis by taking advantage of the authority that the law has granted us.

He added: The general inspection organization of the country has succeeded in establishing 20 inspection units, each of which directly supervises one of the administrative sectors of the country.

Referring to the heavy duties of the employees and authorities in the regime of the Islamic Republic, he said: Government employees are the most oppressed stratum of the society. But, at the same time, they have the honor to serve in a government headed by the religious guardian and rightful deputy of his holiness, the Imam of Age, and are serving a people who have offered their all sincerely to Islam.

In the conclusion of this interview, the director of the general inspection organization of the country addressed the martyr-nurturing nation of our Islamic homeland and said: The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran has established the

general inspection organization of the country to examine violations and complaints. We ask the people to share their problems with this organization so that we can take steps to eliminate them within the framework of the authority and permission afforded us by law.

10,000

CSO: 4640/369

IRAN

ENTIRE ARMY UNIT REPORTEDLY JOINS MUJAHIDIN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Aug 84 p 21

[Text] An official source in Islamabad said on Saturday: An entire army unit of 80 members in Afghanistan crossed the Pakistan border into that country to join the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

The CENTRAL NEWS UNIT quoting the FRENCH NEWS AGENCY from Islamabad reported: Observers in the capital of Pakistan said that this is the first time a military unit of the regime of Afghanistan has joined the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

The sources of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries corroborated that a high ranking officer and the soldiers of this unit in Jalalabad barracks, located in the east of Afghanistan, entered (Paranshinar), 400 km north of Islamabad, last Friday. According to these sources, the soldiers joined the Islamic society, which is managed by Professor Borhaneddin Rabbani.

The sources of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries said: They escaped the army of the regime of Afghanistan because they considered fighting the revolutionaries a conflict with their consciences. Nevertheless, the official sources of Pakistan do not reject the theory that (KHAD) secret agents might be among the 80 Afghan soldiers.

Remember that the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries suggested on 28 July that the Soviet intelligence service, the KGB, and (KHAD) are responsible for bombing assassinations. In these attempts, 12 persons died in the northwestern province of Pakistan.

Skirmishes Southeast of Kabul

On the other hand, dozens of persons of the joint forces of the occupying army and the puppet Karmal regime were killed in the (Shiveki/Shwak?) area 25 Km southeast of Kabul by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. According to the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT, based on

reports received, units of the joint forces of the occupation army and the Karmal regime, supported by several airplanes and dozens of tanks, which intended to attack the (Shiveki /Shwak?/ region, were attacked by the heathen-fighting Afghan revolutionaries and stopped.

According to this report, after a long, heavy battle, the occupiers and the soldiers of the Karmal regime were forced to retreat, leaving behind dozens of casualties and four tanks.

In this battle, 3 Muslim revolutionaries and nearly 25 women and children of the residents of the region were martyred and dozens of residences were destroyed.

Other reports indicate that one helicopter and four tanks of the occupying forces were destroyed and their occupants killed in the attacks of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

Death Sentences of 15 Afghans

Meanwhile, according to IRNA, Kabul radio announced on Saturday: A so-called revolutionary court has sentenced 15 Afghans to death.

Kabul radio stated: The above-mentioned court also condemned other accused persons to hard labor prison sentences ranging from 5 to 20 years. But this radio revealed neither the number of persons convicted nor the date of the ruling.

As usual, Kabul radio accused the condemned persons of supporting Maoist ideas and receiving financial aid from China and the United States to fight the Babrak Karmal government.

10,000
CSO: 4640/369

IRAN

BRIEFS

RESEARCH PROJECTS ON TEA PLANTATION--In order to achieve self-sufficiency in tea production during the current year, 20 research projects are underway in the National Tea Organization to improve tea varieties and their cultivation. An official of the Central Tea Research Council was interviewed by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY. With reference to this matter, he said: The best way to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance in tea production is to simultaneously increase the quality and quantity of this crop. For this purpose, appropriate research projects in various areas of tea cultivation and processing are planned. He added: With regard to research problems pertaining to this crop, early this year [beginning 21 March 1984] tea research matters in the National Tea Organization were placed under the supervision of a council called the Central Tea Research Council. This was done in order to organize and assemble technical and research projects having to do with the cultivation and processing of tea, as well as their teaching and promotion. He added: Due to efforts by members of this council, 20 research projects in tea breeding, cultivation, and processing have been undertaken since the council was formed. He said: In addition, work has been done to study the modification of existing tea plantations, particularly old ones which are no longer capable of giving the necessary yield. A proper and scheduled program which gives appropriate results for producing desirable seedlings of this crop will be developed, and these seedlings will replace old tea plants. He noted that other council activities include the establishment of biochemical laboratories for testing water and soil, the establishment of testing stations, greenhouses for growing more genuine and desirable seedlings, and the training of technicians for carrying out research programs. It must be noted that at the present time more than 40 thousand hectares of land in Gilan and West Azarbaijan are being used to grow tea. Last year tea plantations grew 195 thousand tons of tea, which produced 44 thousand tons of marketable dried tea leaves. It is hoped that during the current year [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] tea growers and tea processing plants will produce 50 thousand tons of marketable dried tea. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 24 Jul 84 p 87 9310

CSO: 4640/366

MINISTER DEFENDS PASSING OF EVIDENCE LAW

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 84 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 29: The Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Religious Affairs, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, on Sunday described apprehensions among sections of women and minorities as completely unfounded about the draft law on Qisas and Diyat, as recommended to the President by the last session of the Majlis-i-Shoora.

Raja Zafarul Haq, who was the chairman of the House committee which presented its report to the Shoora on the draft law, asserted that the rights of women and minorities were fully safeguarded by the provisions under Taazir and Diyat as recommended by the Shoora. The evidence of women and members of minority communities would be admissible and given due consideration by the courts while dealing with cases under the draft law, he maintained.

He said that sections 10 (B) and 28 of the draft law specially attracted attention of women and minorities and came under criticism outside. He explained that they were either wittingly or unwittingly misconstrued by some sections including foreign media. He pointed out that where the provisions of Qisas and Diyat were in applicable, Taazir as provided under Islamic Shariah would be applied and justice meted out to the heirs of the murdered person.

The Information Minister, who was speaking at a news conference when asked whether the evidence of a single woman who might be the only witness in a murder case, would be admissible, replied in the affirmative. So would be the evidence of a non-Muslim, he said, adding that the courts would also be able to take other relevant evi-

dence including circumstantial evidence, into consideration while deciding the case under Taazir.

On the question of quantum of financial compensation provided under law for murdered man and woman, Raja Zafarul Haq said, while two opposite views were expressed on this issue, it was left to the Federal Shariat Court and the Shariah Bench of the Supreme Court to fix the rate of compensation in the light of material placed before then in the light of the Holy Quran and Prophet's teachings and saying.

While briefing foreign newsmen on the draft law, the Information Minister said, while it was provided that the heirs of a murdered person could arrive at a settlement through payment of compensation or other means laid down in draft law, the state would still reserve its right to try and punish an offender in the larger interest of law and order. However, such an action would be taken by the State under Taazir. Similarly, he told another questioner, the State would take upon itself to protect the rights of minor heirs in case there were no major survivors.

He said that the draft law as submitted to the President by the Shoora, would be considered by the Cabinet before it was suitably drafted by the Ministry of Law, and promulgated. He could not say how long it might take for the law to be enacted and enforced, but he emphasised Government's desire to accelerate Islamisation process. As soon as the law of Qisas and Diyat was promulgated. He said, the corresponding laws in the Pakistan Penal Code would be abrogated.

He said that the Qazi Court Draft law had already been under consid-

eration and would be enforced when finalised.

He contested the claim that the Shoora steamrolled Opposition views on the draft law of Qisas and Diyat, and said that in fact the issue had been under discussion in Pakistan ever since the Council of Islamic Ideology gave its original draft in 1981. The Shoora had also detailed discussion in its various committees and the final stage was completed after it was agreed on all sides that only the contentious provisions be debated and sorted out.

He said that women members walked out from the House after one of them read out a statement saying that their contribution to the debate was ignored by the Information Minister while thanking members for their contributions. Women were not in the House when Section 28 relating to question of compensation (which was left for the superior courts to decide) was adopted by the Shoora with more than requisite members present to form the quorum, he further said.

CSO: 4600/693

MINISTER SAYS HE FAVORS PARTYLESS ELECTIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Jul 84 p 2

[Text]

QUETTA, July 27: Mr Mohyudin Baluch, Federal Minister for Communication, said that he would like partyless elections to be given a fair trial instead of holding polls on party basis which, he added, had in past been tried and experimented in the country more than once.

There was, he thought, no harm if ensuing electoral exercise was tried and carried out on non-party basis at national and provincial levels.

Mr. Baluch, who was addressing a news conference in Quetta on Friday before leaving for Islamabad on the conclusion of his tour of Baluchistan, said that necessary preparations had been completed by the Election Commission.

He hoped that the elections would be held in light of Aug 12 programme announced by President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Replying to a question, he said that he was in favour of increasing National Assembly seats from Baluchistan because of increase in the population of province.

Mr. Baluch refrained from specifically expressing his personal views on 1973 Constitution which Federal Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur had described as a source of harm to country and thus deserving to be scrapped.

Mr. Baluch said that members of Federal Cabinet could have different personal views on various issues, and added that Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur might have expressed himself to ventilate his personal views on 1973 Constitution.

SIND MINISTER SAYS LAW, ORDER IMPROVED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 84 p 2

[Text]

KARACHI, July 29: Mr Abdul Ghafoor Bhurgari, Sind Minister for Revenue, has said the law and order situation in the interior of the province has greatly improved lately as a result of the measures taken by the administration.

The Minister, who returned the other day from a tour of Larkana and Sukkur districts, said the police force has been further strengthened and is now better equipped.

Surrender of a number of dacoits and a sharp fall in the incidences of robberies and kidnappings showed that things have changed for the better, he claimed.

The Minister attributed the recent increase in robberies and kidnappings to the activities of hardened criminals, who he alleged were let out of prisons during the MRD agitation.

Replying to a question, he said unemployment in the rural areas was a big issue and attributed this phenomenon to the unimaginative planning in the past, which he said did not take into account the needs of various sectors.

For example, he said, there are five medical colleges in the province, but nobody had made any arrangement to provide employment to qualified doctors.

The Minister also disclosed that following a directive from President of Pakistan, the Federal Production Minister had assured that Larkana Sugar Mills and Shahdadkot Textile Mills will not be closed down, and dues of cane growers amounting to Rs 85 lakh will soon be paid.

AMERICAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT: TALKS SOON TO REMOVE BOTTLENECKS

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, July 26: Talks between American and Pakistani officials and businessmen will be held in Washington in October to discuss ways and means of removing bottlenecks in the implementation of projects identified by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) Mission which has visited Pakistan twice in the last three years.

Knowledgeable sources told "Dawn" here on Thursday that despite efforts from both sides, the desired results have not been achieved because, of the 200 projects identified by OPIC, only 15 were approved. Only five more projects — service, rather than production-oriented — are in various stages of processing.

The American Government is also preparing a report to further locate the causes of delay in this regard. Pakistani officials had visited Washington early this year to convince American entrepreneurs that the investment climate in this country was most favourable.

A ten-member official delegation including top industrialists and representatives of various Chambers of Commerce and Industry led by senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, will hold meetings in Washington, New York

and Chicago, with the Americans. The series of meetings will start sometime in October. The Economic Minister in Pakistan Embassy in Washington has prepared the agenda for the talks and will act as coordinator.

The delegation will also visit some industrial areas in the West Coast region. Electronics, agro-based industries (including agricultural waste by-products), downstream industries for the Pakistan Steel Mills, particularly farm equipment and energy conservation and alternative energy source projects, would be the priority areas so far as Pakistan is concerned.

Discussions between the two sides will also cover wide range of other topics in the light of decisions taken by the US-Pakistan Sub-commission on Economic and Commercial Affairs, which met in Washington on Feb 15 this year.

Views would be exchanged on investment by U.S.-Pakistan and follow-up action on the OPIC Mission, U.S.-Pakistan trade with special reference to Article 28 of the General Agreement of Trade and Tariff (GATT) Article 28 and, soya-bean oil export, and, above all, textile trade and protectionism between the two countries.

CSO: 4600/691

CASE AGAINST JAM SAQI DISMISSED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 84 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, July 29: The three-member Special Military Court, which held the trial of the well-known Jam Saqi case for about one-and-a-half years, has acquitted all the nine accused of the charges levelled against them, it is learnt.

Jam Saqi and others, however, have been detained for three months under a special order, jail authorities in Karachi confirmed on Saturday.

Among the nine accused Nazeer Abbasi had died while in police custody. Eight others are: Jam Saqi, Shabbir Shar, Badar Abro, Kamal Warsi, Suhail Sangi, Amar Lal, Prof. Jamal Naqvi and Jabbar Khattak.

They were tried on charges of subversive activities, publishing objectionable material, revolt against the army and creating hatred among different sections of the population.

Jam Saqi and Shabbir Shar are already undergoing a jail term in another case. Jam Saqi is currently in Sukkur jail, Badar Abro is in hospital and the rest are in Central

Prison, Karachi.

The Special Military Court consisted of Col. Atiq, Capt. Iftikhar Jalees and Magistrate Habibullah Bhutto. DSP Mumtaz Burney and some other police officials represented the prosecution side. The defence was handled by Messrs Shafi Mohammadi, Rashid Rizvi, Akhtar Ali Mahmood, Abdul Wadood and others.

The Jam Saqi case stole the limelight with the citation, as defence witnesses of some top political leaders, poets, writers and professors as well as former Supreme/High Court judges, labour leaders, women sociologists, a diplomat and a chief of the international students organisation.

Among the politicians who gave evidence were Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Miss Benazir Bhutto, Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo, Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari and Mr Mairaj Mohammad Khan.

Among the accused Prof. Jamal Naqvi had been hospitalised in the Special Ward of the Jinnah Hospital for months together.

CS0: 4600/693

PLAN DRAWN TO BOOST EXPORTS

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] ISLAMABAD, July 29--The Federal Export Promotion Board which met under the chairmanship of President Gen. Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq has set an export target of S.D.R. 3,248 million for 1984-85--up 27.8 per cent from the actual exports of S.D.R. 2,540 million in 1983-84.

The meeting which lasted ten hours, with breaks for prayers, also took important decisions and drew up an action plan to step up exports during the current year, Mr. Izharul Haq, Secretary Ministry of Commerce, told newsmen here on Sunday evening.

At S.D.R. (Special Drawing Rights) 2,540 million, the actual exports in 1983-84 were higher by 1.8 per cent in real terms, as compared to exports of S.D.R. 2,498 million in 1982-83. He said the exports have been converted in to S.D.Rs in order to correctly reflect the magnitude of trade, because its expression in U.S. dollar terms was not realistic as the American currency is getting stronger and stronger.

The target for exports in 1984-85 will be reviewed by the end of August this year, when a fuller picture of the exports will emerge. A detailed action plan has been adopted by the Board in order to boost exports.

While reviewing the country's export performance in 1983-84 it was found that the year recorded a slower growth than expected because of a reduced cotton crop. The cotton exports during the year, as a result, declined to SDR 125 million, compared to the target of SDR 360 million.

Other exports made impressive increases during the year which ended on June 30, 1984. Compare to 1982-83, the increases in 1983-84 included: Rice 50 per cent, leather 50 per cent, cotton cloth 23.4 per cent, readymade garments 30.4 per cent, leather footwear 25.2 per cent, leather goods other than footwear 22.5 per cent, and all other items 22.2 per cent. The share of all other items in total exports in 1982-83 was 23.2 per cent which rose to 27.9 per cent in 1983-84.

Mr. Izharul Haq said between 1976-77 and 1983-84, the export rose by 159 per cent, which works out to an annual compound rate of 14.6 per cent.

Mr. Izharul Haq said there was "a significant change in the composition of exports, particularly in favour of cotton textiles and leather garments" which means goods with more value added are being sold abroad now. Illustrating the point, he said, that leather exports rose by 131 per cent over the last six years, but the leather goods

exports went up by 540 per cent.

He thought that the engineering goods exports, and sales of those items which are based on imported raw materials, did not come to the expected level. President Zia, he said, has directed that special attention should be paid to the problems of these industries in order to step up sales abroad.

He said the Board was happy to note that new items, like wheat, urea and pig iron were exported during 1983-84.

Based on statistics for 10 months (July, 1983 to April, 1984) the increase in export of some of the items, he said, was: Chemical and pharmaceutical goods [number illegible] per cent, embroidery 83.2 per cent, hosiery 66.6 per cent, sports goods, 46.6 per cent, surgical goods 22 per cent and onyx manufactures 42 per cent.

The Board was of the view that implementation of the action plan for exports in 1984-85 will enable the country to boost foreign sales. Targets for individual items to be exported during 1983-85 will be finalised by the end of August. The progress of the action plan will be monitored each month.

Key elements

Some of the key elements of the action plan are:

- Fiscal and monetary policy, if required, will be further geared to step up exports.

- Pakistan will participate in 19 trade fairs abroad during 1984-85, while four fairs will be held within the country. These four will include: a leather show at Karachi, a carpet fair at Lahore, an engineering goods show at Lahore, and an international trade fair which will open in Karachi on September 1. The President has directed all the Government and public sector organisations to help the Karachi International Trade Fair.

- Pakistan will send 15 trade delegations abroad during the year to explore new markets.

- Pakistan will undertake numerous product development exercises to sell more in traditional and new markets. The products which will be developed by December this year include: footwear, sanitaryware and tiles, pharmaceutical goods and herbs, soap and cosmetics, and agricultural implements, and jewellery, for the general and global market.

- Pakistan and the European Economic Community (EEC) will develop engineering goods, leather

and leather products, gemstones and jewellery and fresh fruits for the EEC Markets.

- Pakistan and the World Bank will develop leather garments and leather products, textile garments, jewellery, sports goods, surgical goods, cutlery, and carpets for the United States.

- Special emphasis will be laid on developing markets in Africa and Latin America, under a directive by the President, who has stressed the need for exploring new markets.

The Board took several important decisions to boost exports. Some of these are:

- The trade associations will be asked to undertake research and development (R&D) in order to improve and develop products for export.

- The cotton ginning industry has been exempted from the labour levies of social security and old age benefit scheme in respect of casual labour only.

- A Trade Fairs Authority will be created to arrange fairs and exhibitions in Pakistan and make the Karachi International Trade Fair into a permanent feature.

- Trade centres will be opened at Lahore and Karachi to arrange single item shows for promotion of various products.

- Special attention will be paid to packaging of fruit and vegetables. The Pakistan Packaging Institute, Karachi, will provide guidance to private exporters in these matters.

- The President has asked to activate the 20 existing export houses, to enlarge their turn-over and expand their operations.

UPGRADING OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORT ITEMS PLANNED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 29: The Federal Export Promotion Board on Sunday reviewed the system and procedure of grading and inspection of agricultural items to ensure that the quality of exports conformed to the required specification.

The meeting of the Board was held under the chairmanship of President Zia-ul-Haq and attended by Ministers and Secretaries of the Federal Government. The Board decided that pre-shipment inspection of export items will be carried out which include potatoes, citrus fruit, wool, animal hair, fish meal, animal casing, oil cakes and chillies. It was also decided that laboratory analysis should continue to be the responsibility of the Department of Agricultural and Livestock Products.

The Board further decided to establish an Association of Fruit and Vegetable Exporters undertaking pre-shipment inspection of their consignments.

The Agricultural and Livestock Products Marketing and Grading Department was directed to streamline the inspection procedure to ensure prompt issuance of 'certificate of quality' and to provide 24 hours' service.

The Board decided to improve the existing quality of various agricultural commodities which would be brought to the level of international standards and the Department will ensure that the

growers were properly informed about the standards.

The Board decided that the Department should develop grading standards for onions, mangoes and other agricultural commodities with the consultation of the trade and provincial agriculture departments on the basis of assessment of the international market and its trend. Yet another decision of the Board was to exempt import duty of specified grading equipment.

The recommendations by the Ministry of Industries for improvement in the designing and packaging of fruits and vegetables were approved. The recommendations include standardisation of packing material, and utilisation of the expertise of the Pakistan Packaging Institute by the exporters of fruit and vegetables. It was recommended that pre-shipment inspection of packing should also be made.

The Board recommended study of the possibility of nuclear radiation facility in the country. The Nuclear Institute for Food and Agriculture, Peshawar, was working on the feasibility of such a radiation facility.

The Board approved the recommendations of the fishing sector, and in particular the operations of fishing vessels, measures to regulate fishing, quality control, problems of seafood processors and criteria for licensing and export.—APP.

PROBLEMS OF KASHMIRI REFUGEES DISCUSSED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 19 Jul 84 p 16

[Article by Mir Abdul Aziz]

[Text]

THE number of Jammu and Kashmir citizens who have taken refuge in Pakistan now exceeds one million. Despite claims made by various agencies, a large number of these refugees are still unsettled and they are making strenuous efforts to stand on their own feet.

When it was thought fit three decades ago that the refugees should be allotted evacuee properties and other amenities in Pakistan, the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs authorised one of its departments to issue certificates to the genuine refugees. This was a sort of identity card to show that the bearer had come from the held part of the state.

Bogus certificates

Last year there were reports that many bogus certificates had been issued by the authority concerned to persons who did not belong to the held Kashmir, nor even to Azad Kashmir. The result is that the system of issuing identity certificates by the Kashmir Affairs Division has been abandoned. The refugees have been asked to produce "State Subject certificates" from any one of the

four Deputy Commissioners in Azad Kashmir.

Imagine a Kashmiri refugee living in Karachi, Hyderabad, Multan or Lahore going to Azad Kashmir for the certificate, which cannot be issued to him by the D.C. unless two gazetted officers of Azad Kashmir certify him to be a JK national and unless a proper procedure, which takes several days, is followed in different courts.

There is no doubt that black sheep have crept into the system and non-refugees have obtained certificates. Nor can it be denied that the 'State Subject' certificate is a better idea. But the procedure needs to be simplified. It has been suggested that instead of thousands of refugees going to Azad Kashmir for their certificates, some Azad Kashmiri deputy commissioners could be appointed to do the job in the areas in Pakistan where Kashmir and Jammu refugees live in large numbers. In fact this is what the A.K. President had promised to do in his meetings with the refugee leaders in Lahore some time ago. But so far nothing has been done and the Kashmiri refugees are clamouring for relief and justice.

SHOORA APPROVES MAJOR LEGISLATION

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jul 84 p 1

[Text] ISLAMABAD, July 26: The Majlis-i-Shoora on Thursday approved the draft law relating to Enforcement of Qisas and Diyat Ordinance 1984 as reported by the Special Committee of the Majlis-i-Shoora headed by the Information and Religious Affairs Minister, Raja Mohammed Zafarul Haq.

The House approved the draft law with the Religious Affairs Minister presenting a motion before the House that the draft law on Qisas and Diyat 1984 as approved by the Majlis be sent to the President with the recommendation that it be enacted as soon as possible.

In the second reading of the draft law, the House adopted without amendment all the clauses except Clause 128 in which two amendments moved by Haji Mohammed Siddiq Randhawa and Hakim Mohammed Sardar Khan were incorporated.

The house approved the draft by a voice vote.

Raja Zafarul Haq in his brief remarks after the approval of the draft said it was a big step forward in the direction of the enforcement of the Islamic system of 'adal' in the country.

He said that it was certainly an occasion to thank the Almighty for enabling us to cross over a major stage in the process of Islamisation in the country. He said he also wanted to thank the Council of Islamic Ideology who had prepared the draft. He said the chairmen and the members of the three committees of the House also needed to be thanked for their deliberations on the draft law.

The Chairman of the Majlis, Khawaja Mohammed Safdar, said that he was thankful to the members of the House, the Ministers and other workers of the Majlis for their sincere cooperation without which it would not have been possible to dispose of the heavy business.

He said that during the tenth session the budget was discussed for 12 days in which about 200 members took part who had done a lot of home work on the subject. He said it was because of the valuable suggestions in the House that the Federal Finance Minister had accepted two recommendations. He said the Finance Minister had no inhibitions to accept other recommendations but perhaps the country's resources were not enough and the

demands were more.

He said besides the general debate on budget the House also approved a very important draft law on Qisas and Diyat which was discussed inside and outside the House. He said the approval of the draft also proved that the solution of the problems could be found if sincere efforts were made in that direction.

He said the Press gallery, the Secretariat and the Radio and Television teams covering the proceedings day and night had been carrying out their duties very conscientiously.

The tenth session of the Majlis concluded in the afternoon and was prorogued sine die. Chairman Khawaja Mohammed Safdar read out the President's order in this connection.

The session which began on July 10 continued for 17 days with an inaugural address by President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

AIR FORCE GETS NEW AIRCRAFT

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] PESHAWAR, July 26: Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim, Chief of the Air Staff, said here on Thursday that Pakistan believes in peace and extends its hand of friendship to all and particularly its neighbours.

Equipping PAF's No 26 tactical attack squadron with the newly acquired A-5-111 fighter ground attack aircraft at a ceremony held at the PAF base, Peshawar, the Air Chief Marshal said that as citizens of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 'we believe in peace and brotherhood of man and uphold the right of all nations, big or small to grow and flourish in an atmosphere of peace and friendship.'

But he stressed, it would be wrong to interpret Pakistan's desire for peace as its weakness. He said 'we are cognizant of the need

for vigilance, which is the price of liberty. Islam, he said, enjoins upon the believers that while pursuing peace, they should prepare fully to meet any eventuality. PAF's modest programme of replacement of its obsolete equipment as well as its efforts to maintain operational readiness are dictated by this consideration, he continued.

He said the task of the Air Force has always been to defend the skies of the homeland and to help the sister services, as air power has emerged as one of the most dominant factors in war. It was this consideration that influenced the selection of A-5-111, which is essentially a ground support aircraft.

China thanked

Thanking the People's Republic of China, for their invaluable con-

tribution to the cause of our defence he said that supply of A-5-111's is their latest gesture of friendship. "We hold the Government and the people of our great neighbouring country in the highest esteem and respect them for their principled stand on various international issues," he declared.

Air Chief Marshal Shamim said ever since he took over the command of the PAF, modernisation of equipment and enhancement of its operational efficiency had been his chief concerns.

Earlier, on his arrival to perform the re-equipment ceremony, Air Chief Marshal Shamim was received by the Air Officer Commanding, northern Air Command, Air Vice Marshal Shabbir Hussain Syed and the Base Commander Air Commodore A. Rashid Sajid.

CSO: 4600/691

SOUND POLICY URGED FOR RETURNING OVERSEAS WORKERS

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Aug 84 Business Supplement pp I, IV

[Article by M. Ziauddin]

[Text]

THE MAJORITY of over two million Pakistanis working in the Middle East is expected to start returning home at an accelerated rate from January 1985.

Most of these returnees are expected to be from the working class now earning upto Rs. 10,000 monthly and contributing the bulk of remittances which touched an all-time peak of three billion dollars in 1982-83.

The official and non-official circles do not contest this projection. In fact, fears of such an eventuality were first expressed by official circles when in May last it became clear that the remittances were on the downslide.

ILO warning

The Asian Consultative Committee of the ILO in one of its recent meetings is also said to have recognised the trends and warned the member-countries expected to be affected by the return of the expatriates working in the Middle East.

According to independent experts, the impact of this development on the domestic economy of Pakistan would be multidimensional.

In the first place, the country's balance of payments position is expected to be affected seriously not only because of a decline in remittances but also because of the slowing down of exports to the Middle East region, as a result of departure of a good number of Pakistanis who

are said to be the actual target consumers of Pakistan's exports to this region. As much as 36 per cent of the total exports of Pakistan go to the Middle East region.

Secondly, there is expected to be a sudden expansion in the domestic labour force by about 7 to 8 per cent as a result of the return of Pakistani workers from the Middle East bringing about a more than a matching pressure on available jobs.

Independent experts suspect that the majority of the returnees will belong to the non-investing jobber class which had worked in conditions better than what are available in similar job situations in Pakistan and have also earned three to four times more than what is offered for similar jobs at home.

These experts also believe that the national airline, PIA, which has been making lucrative profits on the Middle East circuit and thus balancing its accounts, would also face some difficulties as a result of a drop in the outflow of workers.

Effect on PIA

They agree that mass returns would for some time cover up for the shortfall in the revenue resulting from a serious decline in the number of outgoing passengers but this breather, they said, would not last for more than 15 to 20 months.

They believe that the new interest of PIA in the Australian, New Zealand and other South-East Asian markets appears to have been prompted by the airline management's calculation that its Mid-

dle East circuit was going to slow down considerably in the coming months.

What to do then?

On the other hand, they also say, it was appropriate that official circles have recently recognised the fact that Asean market, more than the Middle East market, will now be crucial for our exports, especially of engineering goods for the development of which a concentrated campaign appears to have been mounted.

The most important question, however, will be what to do with the returnees. According to those who know the subject, no policy should be framed before determining what kind of people are expected to come back as a result of the slowdown of construction work in the Middle East region.

While they suspect that most of these returnees would belong to the working class, they insist that it would help a great deal in policymaking if a sample survey is made to confirm this aspect.

In this regard, they suggest that every incoming passenger from the Middle East should be asked, before he alights from the airplane, to file a simple questionnaire, like the one he does for the Department of Immigration. He should be asked only two questions besides his name, address and age: (i) the nature of his work in the Middle East (alongwith the company and location) and, (ii) whether he was coming back for good or for holidays.

Information collected from these questioners, say over a period of six months, if processed properly would give a reasonably good idea about the shape and extent of the problem, the experts said.

Collecting data

While the practice of collecting

the data in this manner should be continued for at least two to three years, a reasonably sound policy on the basis of the sample survey of six months could be evolved for tackling the problem reasonably appropriately, they added.

These experts appear convinced that the investor class of Pakistani workers in the Middle East will be affected only slightly by the slowdown in the region's economic activity. Moreover, even when they come back, they would prefer to keep their investible savings in foreign banks abroad because of the attractive interest rates and the relative security of their savings in those banks.

Professionals

In any event, they said, the professional class of people like doctors, engineers and bankers would continue to be in demand in the region for another decade or so because of the developmental momentum that has been initiated by the oil boom and which would continue to sustain for a long time even after the boom peters out.

In view of the above, these experts believe that the government should evolve two kinds of policies: one for the rehabilitation of the working class returnees who have already consumed their savings and would be looking for the right kind of jobs and another policy for attracting the savings of the investor class.

The first policy, they said, should be evolved only after determining the shape and form of the problem through a sample survey of the returnees.

For the second, it was suggested that opportunities offered in the Sixth Plan should be broken down in small economic packages and these packages should be publicised in the target market aggressively.

Package of opportunities

They thought these packages could be attractively presented through 10 to 15 minutes video movies and these inserted appropriately in the cassettes of popular movies. This, they said, could be arranged by paying some fees to those companies which market these cassettes in the Middle East.

The only pastime of Pakistani workers in the Middle East, they say, is enjoying VCR movies and if their attention is caught at a time when they are relaxing at home and the message is conveyed appropriately it will yield the desired results. These videos could also be shown as inflight movies on board PIA on the Middle East circuit and also by arrangement on other airlines carrying Pakistani passengers from and to Middle East.

Any kind of video on the subject would not do. In their opinion, the entire job would require skill not only in video making but also in breaking down the Sixth Plan opportunities in the right kind of packages which, they said, could be done only by experts well versed in the art of preparing economic portfolios.

For example, those Pakistanis who are engaged in highway construction and road building could be offered the package of farm-to-market roads as envisaged in the Sixth Plan, they said. The script for this package should show the location and sizes of proposed roads, the availability of asphalt, labour wages, concessions on import of road rollers, the expected margin of profit, etc.

Similarly, the fruit and vegetable processing opportunities and downstream industrial portfolios of Pakistan Steel, etc, could also be discussed visually, they added.

The whole thing, they said, would be creatively challenging if done properly would do more than what the commercial councillors in the various embassies of Pakistan in the Middle East region have done so far and would also yield quick results.

COMMENTARY ON PROBLEM OF RETURNING WORKERS

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Returning Workers: Human and Economic Factors"]

[Text]

REMITTANCES from Pakistanis working abroad have virtually been the mainstay of the country's foreign exchange budget ever since the oil boom attracted large numbers of workers from this country to the Middle East. In the early years of the last decade more than sixty per cent of remittances came from the U.K., whereas in 1982-83 only about five per cent of total remittances originated in that country. There was a massive increase in the amount being sent home also: from less than 125 million dollars in 1972-73, the total jumped to 2.9 billion dollars a decade later. Now, however, there are signs that the growth in remittances might be levelling off, whereas some sources claim that there will be an actual fall from the peak achieved in the last few years. Although the Sixth Five-Year Plan has tentatively put the annual growth in remittances during the Plan period at ten per cent — at the same time, stating frankly that no accurate prediction can be made — indications are that this could be an optimistic figure. In fact, the estimated remittances of 2.8 billion dollars last year came to slightly less than the figure for 1982-83. For the current year also the figure is expected to remain stagnant or to

fall further — which compares unfavourably with the Sixth Plan projections of 3.135 billion dollars for 1983-84 and 3.448 billion dollars for the current year.

The Government has no doubt taken cognisance of this new trend, but the unfortunate fact is that that is about all it has done so far. There are few surveys or studies to show what is going on and what the flow of returning Pakistani workers is going to be like in the foreseeable future, and it is obvious that not much can be done without knowing what is to be expected in the next few years — even if the facts and projections are not of a very precise nature. Another aspect which is cause for worry is that attention so far has been largely focussed on the expected fall in remittances, and ways in which the gap can be made up. The human dimension of the issue has been more or less ignored — which is something that cannot be done except at some peril to the social fabric. Projections of the future pattern of the overseas labour market differ. Some sources have recently begun to claim that there will be a net inflow of Pakistani workers from the Middle East and other employment markets from next year: something like

ten to fifteen thousand annually. The Sixth Plan, on the other hand, had maintained that there would be a net migration of Pakistani workers during the Plan period and had put the total figure at about 0.55 million. Whatever the situation on the balance may be, one thing that cannot be denied is that Pakistani workers abroad will soon begin to return home for good in large numbers: there is already a significant trickle back. These will in turn create pressures and demands that must be understood in advance and for which preparations must be made.

It really needs a multi-pronged approach to determine what kinds of pressures and needs may arise, but a few broad points can be easily anticipated. The primary need, of course, will be that of gainful employment. Even if there is a net migration from the country, it does not necessarily follow that a significant proportion of returning Pakistanis will be able to find jobs or opportunities for self-employment. Providing employment opportunities is, thus, a pressing national need, since even without accounting for returning Pakistanis there is considerable unemployment, and even more under-employment. Nevertheless, in making plans for the future, this added factor must be taken into account so that appropriate measures can be taken. Towards this end stress is being laid on self-employment, and on the setting up of labour-intensive small industries, for

those with investible funds, and plans in this respect must be expedited. Small farms, particularly envisaging a cropping pattern that is labour intensive, small-scale agro-industries and the promotion of a service sector in the rural areas should also be provided for, so that those with a rural background do not feel any compulsion to stay on in cities. This last, though, is a factor with which we will have to contend. There is a high probability that a significant proportion of persons who originally belonged to the rural areas will opt to settle in cities on returning from overseas employment. This will in turn create pressure on housing and other services, for which the authorities must be prepared in advance. This is why it is important that opportunities for small-scale investment — in farms and other avenues — be created in rural areas, which will also mean availability of jobs for those with limited savings. These are just a few of the problems that Pakistanis returning in large numbers might create and themselves encounter. The point is that the Government should not merely be concerned with the effect that the drop in remittances will have on the economy. It should also study the problems that relocating overseas workers will involve, and those that will be created as a result of their presence here, so that corrective and preparatory measures can be taken in advance.

BRIEFS

CONCERN OVER CRIME IN SIND--HYDERABAD, July 26--The Deputy Martial Law Administrator, Sector-2, Hyderabad, has concern over the number of robbery and abduction cases in Hala sub-division during the last six months and directed the concerned departments for effective patrolling along Indus River bund, Hala-Shahdadpur road and Saeedabad area. Discussing law and order situation and other problems of the area with local officials at Hala, he said that arms licences to the citizens should be issued under Chowkidari system. The DMLA also met the area notables and listened to their problems which mostly pertained to the irrigation water supply, issuance of licences, provision of schools and starting an evening shift for the girls students in Government Science College, Hala. Later, the DMLA held an open kutchery and issued on-the-spot orders for the solution of their problems. [Excerpt] [Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jul 84 p 2]

EEC AID FOR REFUGEES--BRUSSELS, July 26--The European Economic Community will be giving about 1 million dollars in aid to Afghan displaced persons currently living in Pakistan, it was announced in Brussels on Thursday. The money will be used as part of a programme for small-scale development projects drawn up by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). These projects are aimed at improving the food self-sufficiency of Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan's North-West Frontier province. EEC aid will be directed towards the setting up of kitchen gardens in the Afghan refugee camps. The gardens will be supplied with simple tools, seeds, insecticide and fertiliser (free of cost). Local agricultural experts will train and assist the refugees. EEC officials say that the sites for the setting up of the gardens will be selected in relation to the availability of water. [By Shadaba Islam] [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jul 84 p 1]

BRITAIN SEEKS EXTRADITION OF THREE--THE British government is to shortly formally request Pakistan for the extradition of three Pakistani nationals who are wanted in connection with the kidnap and murder of an Indian diplomat, Mr Ravindra Mhatre, who was based in Birmingham, last February. Six men are awaiting trial, charged with kidnapping and unlawfully imprisoning Mr Mhatre. Two of the accused are also charged with murder. A Birmingham magistrate has issued a warrant for the arrest of three 'Pakistanis,' Mohammad Izbal, Azhar Mahmood and Mohammad Aslam Mirza, on charges of kidnapping and forced imprisonment. A BBC correspondent claimed that all three accused are believed to be in Pakistan, and the British Home Secretary is filing an application for their extradition under the United Nations Convention of 1974. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jul 84 p 1]

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